

REMARKS**I. INTRODUCTION**

Claims 3-8, 12-18, 21-27, 30-32, 34-37, and 39-41 are pending in this application. Claims 3-5, 15, 17, 21-27, 30, 32, 34-37, 39 and 40 stand rejected. Claims 3-5, 27, 30, and 33 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 6-8, 12-14, 16, 18, 31, and 41 were previously allowed.

The specification is amended at paragraphs [0027] and [0029] to reflect the issuance of the referenced patent applications. The specification is amended at paragraph [0054] to correct a clerical mistake.

Claims 15 and 17 are amended to change dependency from claim 3 to claim 6. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at paragraph [0066]. Claims 21-23 are amended to change dependency from claim 3 to claim 6, which as a result, also changes the dependencies of claims 24-26. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at paragraphs [0037]-[0040]. Claims 32 and 34 are amended to change dependency from claim 27 to claim 31, which as a result, also changes the dependencies of claims 35-37. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at paragraphs [0037]-[0040] and [0062].

New claims 42-51 are added. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification as follows:

Claim 42 : paragraph [0062]

Claim 43 : paragraph [0058]

Claims 44 and 45 : paragraph [0066]

Claims 46-48 : paragraphs [0037]-[0040]

Claims 49-51 : paragraphs [0063] and [0064]

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As suggested by Examiner, claims 39 has been amended to clarify that M is “selected from the group consisting of aluminum, gallium, zinc, copper, and lead.” Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under § 112 have been overcome and should therefore be withdrawn.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3-5, 15, 17, 21-23, 27, 30, 32, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,703,180 B1 (“Boroson et al.”). Claims 3-5, 27, 30, and 33 are cancelled. Claims 15, 17, 21-23, 32, and 34 are amended to depend from claims that are allowable, thus rendering these rejections moot.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24-26 and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boroson et al. These claims are amended to depend from claims that are allowable, thus rendering these rejections moot.

V. NEW CLAIMS 42-51

New claims 42-51 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 39, which is now in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 42-51 are in condition for allowance.

VI. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and request that such action be taken. If for any reason the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application would be advanced by contact with the Applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600 (Kenyon & Kenyon LLP).

Respectfully submitted,

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